

Where can I get a rain barrel?

Rain barrels are available throughout the year at the **Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District** located at 100 N Atkinson Rd, Suite 102A, Grayslake, IL.

A 55 gallon rain barrel is \$79. These rain barrels are available on a first come, first serve basis. A limited number of colors are available.

For more information and to check barrel availability, please call the District Office at 847-223-1056 or email at lcsxcd@sbcglobal.net.

The Rain Barrel Program is also sponsored by the Lake County Forest Preserve District, the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, and the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County.

There is also an annual rain barrel sale in the spring. You can register to receive a notification of the next rain barrel sale by contacting the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District at 847.223.1056 or lcsxcd@sbcglobal.net.

Visit the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District website for more information: www.lakesxcd.org

Did You Know?

- In the Chicago area, the average annual rainfall is more than 30" and the average number of days with rain is 127.
- One inch of rain on a 1,000 square foot roof yields 623 gallons of water. Calculate the yield of your roof by multiplying the square footage of your roof by 623 and then divide by 1000.

How to decorate your rain barrel!

Make decorating your rain barrel a family or group project. It's fun and easy!

- To paint a rain barrel a solid color, Krylon's Fusion spray paints are recommended as they are designed for plastic and don't require a primer.
- To paint designs, first prime the barrel with Zinser 1-2-3 (blue can) and follow with a coat of interior/exterior grade acrylic paint. Finally, paint your designs with acrylics.
- Proudly display your rain barrel and share your project with neighbors and friends.



Source: The Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District.
This brochure was created by Lake County Communications.



RAIN BARRELS

Lake County
Water Supply
Advisory
Committee



Preserving Water

What are rain barrels?

A rain barrel is a water tank which is used to collect and store rainwater runoff, typically from rooftops. Instead of running down driveways and sidewalks to sewers, rainwater falls into a rain barrel where it can be stored for use in gardens and for house plants.

It reduces demand for treated tap water and decreases the burden on water treatment facilities and municipal drainage systems during storms. They are a simple, efficient, low-cost method for homeowners to conserve water.

How can the rainwater be used?



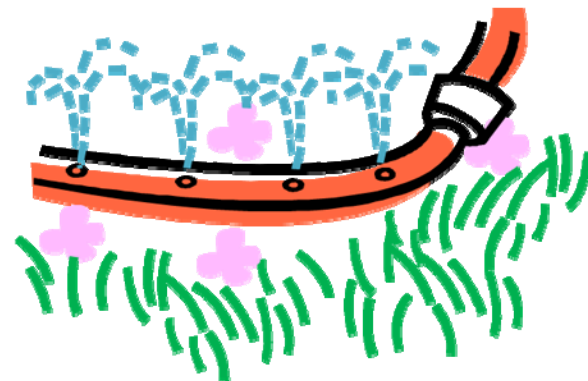
- **Plants** – Fill a bucket to hand-water plants in your garden and indoor plants.
- **Pet-care** – Fill animal water bowls and use for pet baths.
- **Washing** – Use the rain water to wash cars and bicycles.

Rainbarrel Benefits

- Reduces the volume of water flowing to the sewer treatment facility
- Lowers the percentage of roof top rainfall as a component of urban runoff
- Backup source of water during times of drought or between rain showers
- Helps to keep our creeks and beaches clean
- Naturally softened water - great for delicate houseplants, auto cleaning and window washing
- Saves money by lowering your water bill
- Reduces the need for additional tax dollars earmarked for sewer expansion
- Chlorine-free water helps maintain a healthy biotic community in the soil
- Educational tool for teaching residents about water conservation

How are rain barrels installed and used?

- To install, place rain barrel on platform or stand. (You can use concrete blocks). Adjust downspout from roof so that water is directed to the top of the barrel. (You may need to cut downspout and use a flex-elbow connector found at hardware stores).
- Attach regular or soaker hose to the bottom spigot and top overflow valve and direct to landscaped areas nearby.
- The ideal time to install rain barrels is when the rainy season begins in the spring. Rain barrels can be left outside year-round, but before winter arrives, drain and open up the spigot and bottom drain.



Planning for Our Future Water Supply

The Lake County Water Supply Advisory Committee, which includes elected leaders and other stakeholders, is working to establish sustainable policies and practices in order to ensure there is available, clean, safe, and cost-effective drinking water in the future. You can read reports, view meeting schedules and more at www.lakecountyil.gov. For more information, call 847-377-2550.

Save Water for Our Future

Rain barrels are just one way that you can conserve water. There are many more things you can do inside and outside your home. For more information on water conservation, please contact your local water utility or visit www.lakecountyil.gov/savewater.